1. DATE - TIME GROUP	2. LOCATION
9 Sept 64 10/0130Z	Boston, Massachusetts
3. SOURCE Civilian 4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One, Two	10. CONCLUSION 1. Aircraft (w/Banner) 2. (SEARCHLITES)
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Not Reported 6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual 7. COURSE Varied 8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No 9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS 11 reported sightings in Boston area submitted by Raymond Fowler. 9 of 11 are attributable to an a/c with an advertising banner and the two additional sightings present the characteristics of a searchlight or spotlight. These are indirect reports. See case files.

FTD FORM SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

Wakefield Daily Item

SERVING THE MOST ENTERPRISING COMMUNITY NORTH OF BOSTON

1894 — WAKEFIELD, MASS., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1964 — TEN PAGES

WAKEFIELD I, MASS.
9-10-64

Volpe Flying High?

Flying "Object" Sighted In Area

While it must be accepted as fact that it was an airplane towing a lighted political sign, those who witnessed what they believed to be a flying saucer over this area, last night, probably will remain with their original thought.

Around 9:15, the mysterious object floated through the skies north of Boston. Some described it as round, with lights on the rim; some said it was the size of a squashed car; others told of its incredible speed, while still others saw it flying at a speed of only about 100 miles an hour.

But it can all be blamed on a "Bring Back Volpe" lighted sign being towed by a Tri-pacer, so claim state police on advice from the control tower at Logan International Airport.

Mrs. Jean Walsh of 41 Jefferson rd telephoned Lt. William R. Connors at Wakefield police headquarters that as she and her husband were driving along Main st they observed a big object traveling faster than any plane that they had ever seen. She described the lights around the edges of the circular object.

Susan Collins of 33 Lake st told the lieutenant that she and several others observed a flying saucer, and estimated that it was traveling over the junior high school. She said that many others saw it, too.

From the bridge of The Ship on Route 1 in Lynnfield, owner John Zappala and five patrons viewed the mysterious object after it was first sighted by the parking lot attendant Richard Maloney, 19, of Coolidge pk, Wakefield.

It was traveling west to east, went into a left bank and its amber lights blinked off and on showing the object to be about the size of "a crushed automobile," Maloney said.

Maloney told a Daily Item reporter "it looked white then yellowish, but when I first saw it it looked like a long string of lights."

Like Maloney, all other witnesses said that the flying object made no noise. This is still puzzling to state police where Sgt. Joseph Kelley received reports at the Lynnfield barracks. He relayed them to state police headquarters in Boston.

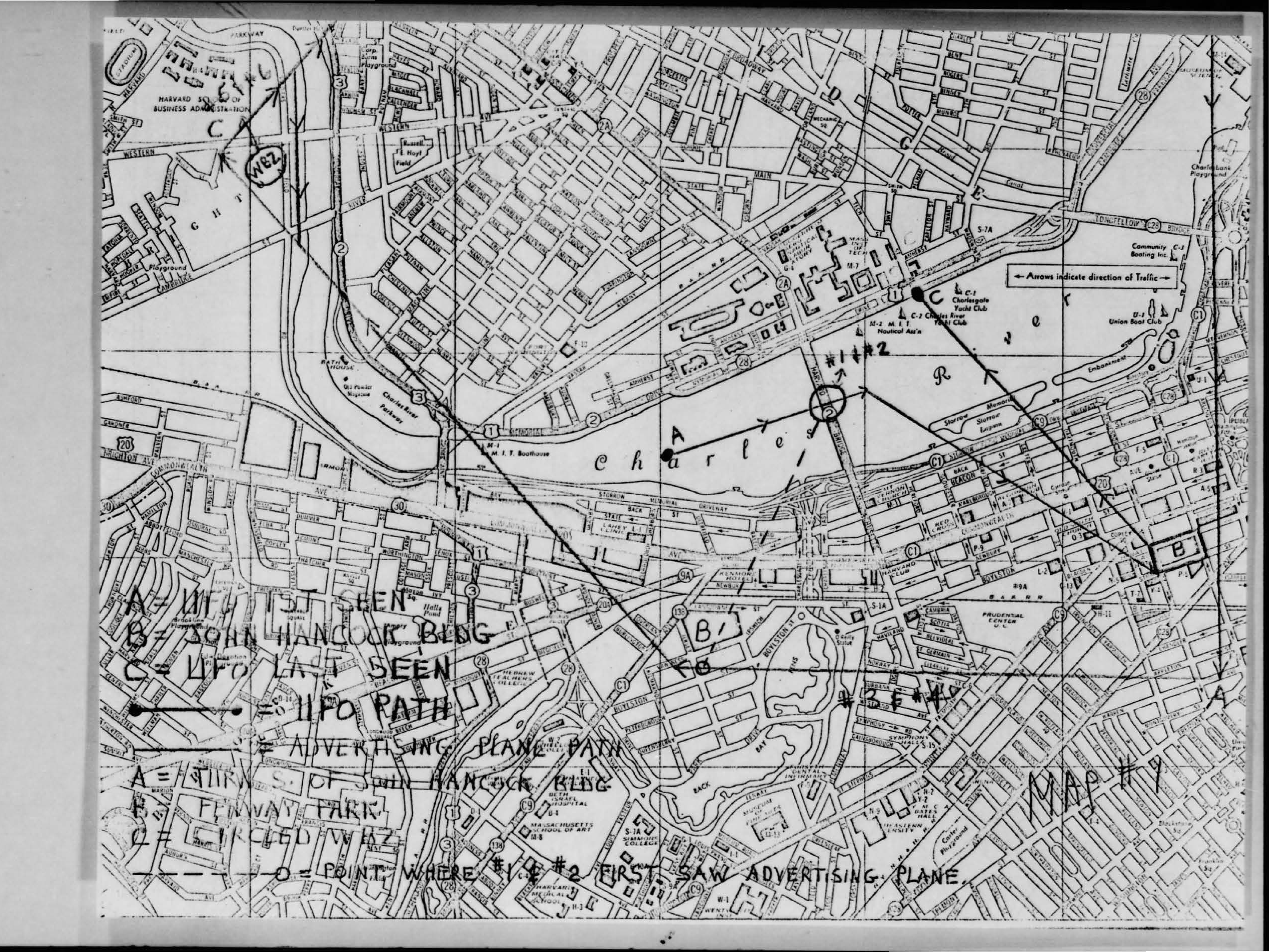
Maloney said that to him the flying object was large in size.

But the control tower at Logan insists that it must have been the Tri-pacer that was towing the Volpe sign. Each word was lighted singularly, creating a "flashing" effect.

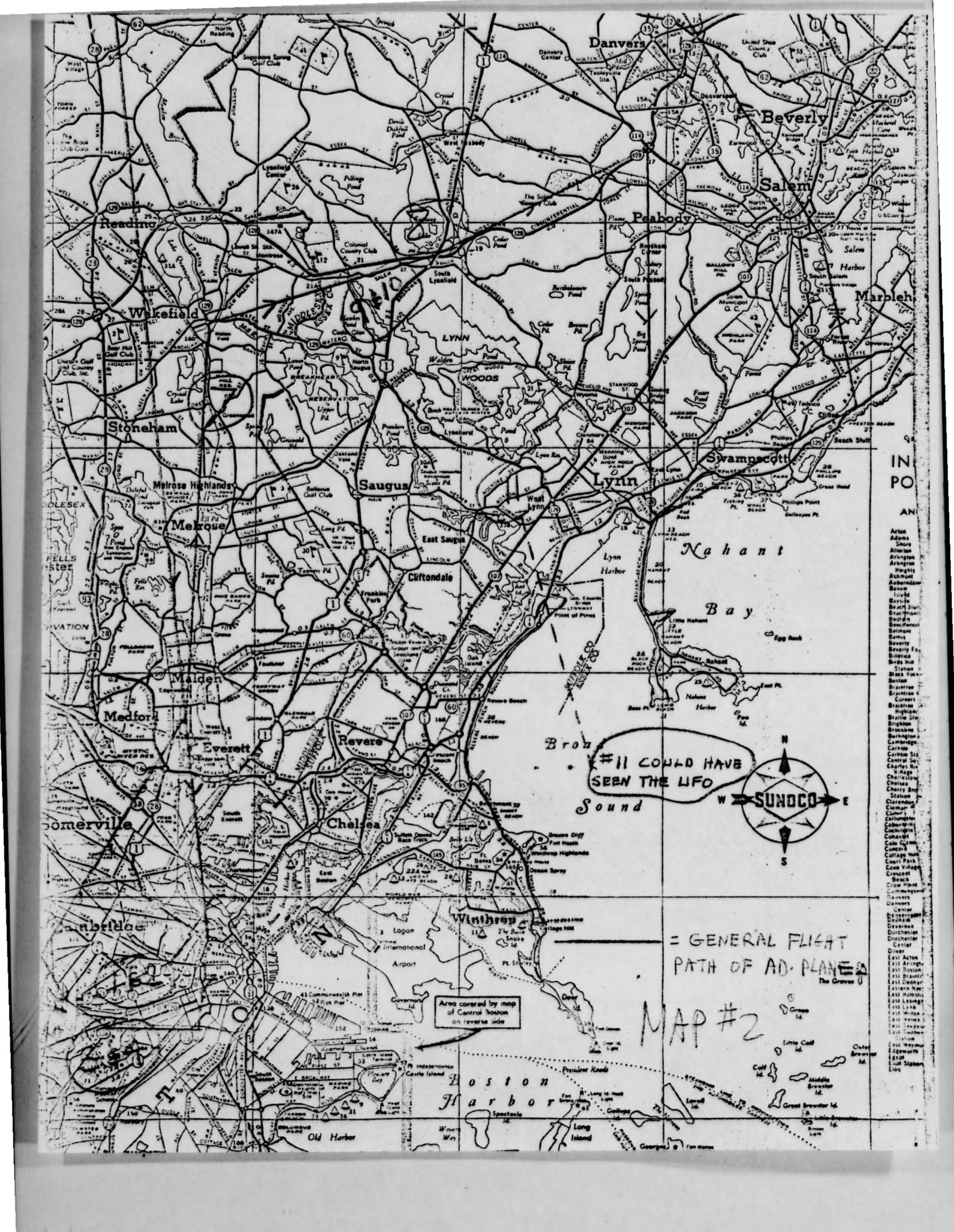
Other reports were made from Cambridge and from residents in the Charles River area, all witnesses stating that it was a noiseless mysterious flying object, and not an airplane.

GENERAL FLIGHT PATH OF ADVERTISING PLANE

BEVERLY AIRPORT, TAKE-OFF - 7:30 PM
TO LAWRENCE, MASS.
ARRIVE ROCKINGHAM RACE TRACK, SALEM, N.H. - 8:00
BACK THROUGH LAWRENCE
SOUTH THROUGH MELROSE
SOUTH TO JOHN HANCOCK BUILDING - 8:30 +
WEST TO FENWAY PARK
TO WBZ, HOLDING AROUND WBZ TOWERS
THROUGH CAMBRIDGE
SOMERVILLE
MEDFORD
WAKEFIELD
NE TO COLONIAL GOLF COURSE
TO JUNCTION RT 1 & 128
TO SHOPPING CENTER, JUNCTION RT 128 & RT 114
TO LYNN SHORE
SWAMPSCOTT
MARBLEHEAD
SALEM
BEVERLY AIRPORT - 10:00



A = UFO 1ST SEEN
B = JOHN HANCOCK BLDG
C = UFO LAST SEEN
●——● = UFO PATH
——— = ADVERTISING PLANE PATH
A = TURN S. OF JOHN HANCOCK BLDG
B = FENWAY PARK
C = CIRCLED WBZ
- - - - O = POINT WHERE #1 & #2 FIRST SAW ADVERTISING PLANE.
MAP #1
#1 & #2
#3 & #4
WBZ
Charles River
Arrows indicate direction of Traffic
HARVARD SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
PRUDENTIAL CENTER



#11 COULD HAVE SEEN THE UFO
= GENERAL FLIGHT PATH OF AD. PLANE
MAP #2
SUNOCO
Danvers
Beverly
Salem
Peabody
Reading
Wakefield
Stoneham
Melrose Highlands
Melrose
Saugus
Lynn
Swampscott
Marbleh
Nahant
Bay
Cliftondale
Malden
Medford
Everett
Revere
Chelsea
Somerville
Cambridge
Winthrop
Logan International Airport
Boston Harbor
Old Harbor
Broad Sound
Lynn Harbor
Salem Harbor
Area covered by map of Central Boston on reverse side

13 Friend Court,
Wenham, Massachusetts

18 October 1964

SAF-OIPB
Department of the Air Force
Office of the Secretary
United States Air Force
Washington, D.C.

Attention: Major Maston M. Jacks

Dear Major Jacks:

Thank you for your letter of 14 October 1964 in response to one of several recent UFO reports which I submitted to the USAF, i.e. UFO sightings on 9 September 1964 in the Boston, Massachusetts, North Shore Area. ~~In answer to your~~ questions concerning the possibility that the "second object" sighted by James Warsher and his friend was a searchlight or spotlight, I am supplying the following information.

One of my initial questions to Mr. Warsher was whether a searchlight reflection on a cloud layer was what he might have witnessed as there were low scattered clouds over Boston and such a light could have performed the maneuvers described. I received an emphatic "no" from him. He described the object as solid, having depth, and flying below the cloud base. Only the "bottom" of the object was dimly glowing. As regarding your query whether Mr. Warsher felt that the second object was "trying to intercept or catch the advertising plane", the answer is also negative. The aircraft was on the other side of the Charles River heading toward the WBZ TV towers whereas the UFO was approaching from the opposite direction over the Charles River toward their car on the Harvard Square Bridge. Other cars and a MTA bus stopped on the bridge while their occupants observed the object. It passed directly over the bridge, made a sharp turn with no curve radius and proceeded directly for the large light on the John Hancock Building and made 2-3 90° square turns around this light. It then came back toward and almost over the Charles River where it accelerated upwards into the cloud base. At all times the object witnessed appeared to be solid, elliptical in shape with a dimly-glowing base. The object exhibited several typical UFO characteristics: i.e. its elliptical shape; ability to perform turns with no curve radius; and, a change in color upon acceleration unless this was caused by ground lights reflecting on the object or because of its light being affected as it began to enter the cloud base.

For some reason there has been a rash of UFO sightings in this area for the past few months. Yesterday I sent out several recent reports to Wright-Patterson AFB. I believe that basic information on one of these was already TWX'd there by Major Brooks at Hanscom AFB, Bedford, Massachusetts who took down the information by phone from me as it concerned a UFO intercepting and following a C119

which was on a landing approach to Hanscom AFB. It was dark gray or black, torpedo-shaped and had small fins at its rear. No wings or other appendages were observed. No noise. No exhaust trail. You may already have been forwarded this information. I am presently working on several more recent reports: - a UFO which overtook two jets which had just broke the sound barrier over Brockton, Mass. and which then dropped to hover over Brockton in three different areas after making abrupt maneuvers; the other involved a UFO observed hovering over a street in the city of Haverhill, Mass. around 1:00 AM one morning. It was circular in shape and, significantly enough (cf. Warsher) its base had a soft glow coming from it. Illumination from nearby streetlights revealed a dome-like structure on top. The sight of it sent the witnesses hurrying to the police station! Details will be sent out shortly to AFSC (FTD) and to civilian groups.

In accordance with AFR 200-2 dated 20 July 1962 and amended on 30 March 1964, paragraph #7, would you be so kind as to send me the USAF fact sheet on the well-publicized Socorro, New Mexico UFO sighting by Socorro patrolman Lonnie Zamora on 24 April 1964? Also, would you please expand on the meaning of AFR 200-2, par. #7 in relation to your office making available to the public "all releases" concerning UFO sightings reported to the USAF? I realize that this does not include those reports which are classified and those which are "For Official Use Only" but would those reports cleared by your office for distribution to the public be available to me? Would it be possible for an interested individual like myself to receive back copies and be put on a distribution list for future releases or would I have to ask for such "releases" specifically i.e. referring to each sighting separately? I have followed the UFO problem for seventeen years and am dependent upon UFO information through UFO organizations; newsclip service; personal contacts and personal investigations concerning UFO sightings. Any "releases" available from The Office of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force would be greatly appreciated and would be a great aid in my own UFO research. The implications of the the sightings of real "unknowns" throughout the world are enormous and complicated. One needs as much information as possible to carry on a serious study of these objects.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond E. Fowler

Raymond E. Fowler

REF/ref

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

14 October 1964

Dear Mr. Fowler:

We are in receipt of your report of unidentified flying object sightings on 9 September 1964 in the Boston, Massachusetts, North Shore area. We are in accord with your conclusions on sightings three through eleven, as being the advertising plane from Beverly Airport. While these reports are of identified objects and not unidentified reports the information does serve as confirmation of the visual characteristics displayed by aircraft with advertising banners.

The sightings of witnesses one and two cannot be evaluated as the advertising plane since the object was observed at the same time. This sighting presents some characteristics of a reflection of searchlight/spotlight or other ground lights. Verification required for an evaluation of this nature would include the weather data to establish a cloud or haze layer and the presence of a searchlight/spotlight in the area. The description of the second object is in accord with this evaluation. The object was elliptical shape with fuzzy edges, no noise, dull grey color diffused with yellowish tint. The motion is also highly suggestive of this phenomena. In your continued investigation this possibility could be checked. Did James Warsher have the feeling that the second object was trying to intercept or catch the advertising plane, in a manner such as someone with a spotlight perhaps attempting to focus on this plane?

The Air Force wishes to thank you for your interest in aerial phenomena.

Sincerely,

MASTON M. JACKS
Major, USAF
Chief, Pictorial Branch
Public Information Division
Office of Information

Raymond E. Fowler
13 Friend Court
Wenham, Massachusetts

HEADQUARTERS
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO

FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: TDEW

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Object Reports

7 Oct 64

TO: Hq USAF SAFOI PB
Wash D C 20330

This ~~letter~~ office has received a report of unidentified flying object sightings on 9 Sep 64 in the Boston, Massachusetts North Shore area, from R[redacted] Wenham, Massachusetts. Attached is a suggested reply to Mr Fowler.

FOR THE COMMANDER

Hector Quintanilla Jr. Maj.
~~ERIC T de JONCKHEERE~~
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Technology
and Subsystems

1 Atch
a/s

YOU - THE NUCLEUS OF SECURITY!

HEADQUARTERS
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO



REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

SUBJECT: UFO Sightings, 9 Sep 64

TO: 
[redacted]
Wenham, Massachusetts

Dear Mr [redacted]

We are in receipt of your report of unidentified flying object sightings on 9 Sep 64 in the Boston, Massachusetts, North Shore area. We are in accord with your conclusions on sightings three through eleven, as being the advertising plane from Beverly Airport. While these reports are of identified objects and not unidentified reports the information does serve as confirmation of the visual characteristics displayed by aircraft with advertising banners.

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The Air Force wishes to thank you for your interest in aerial phenomena.

YOU - THE NUCLEUS OF SECURITY!

14 October 1964

Dear Mr. [redacted]

We are in receipt of your report of unidentified flying object sightings on 9 September 1964 in the Boston, Massachusetts, North Shore area. We are in accord with your conclusions on sightings three through eleven, as being the advertising plane from Beverly Airport. While these reports are of identified objects and not unidentified reports the information does serve as confirmation of the visual characteristics displayed by aircraft with advertising banners.

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The Air Force wishes to thank you for your interest in aerial phenomena.

Sincerely,

MASTON M. JACKS
Major, USAF
Chief, Pictorial Branch
Public Information Division
Office of Information

[redacted]
Wenham, Massachusetts

USAF

13 Friend Court
Wenham, Massachusetts

SUBJECT: UFO SIGHTING(S) - 9 September 1964

Boston, Massachusetts
North Shore Area, Massachusetts (possible)

CONTENTS: SIGHTING ACCOUNTS
(3) UFO DATA SHEETS (To NICAP only) *
MAP OF PRINCIPAL SIGHTING AREA
ADVERTISING PLANE FLIGHT PLAN
NEWSPAPER CLIPPING

FROM: Raymond E. Fowler

TO: List

cc. NICAP *
ATIC
W. N. Webb
APRO
NE UFO Group

The following Report provides detailed information concerning UFO sighting(s) on the night of 9 September 1964 at Boston, Massachusetts and possibly in the North Shore area of Massachusetts. Additional information is expected and will be forwarded at a later date.

Raymond E. Fowler
NICAP Member

REF/ref

UFO REPORT BACKGROUND

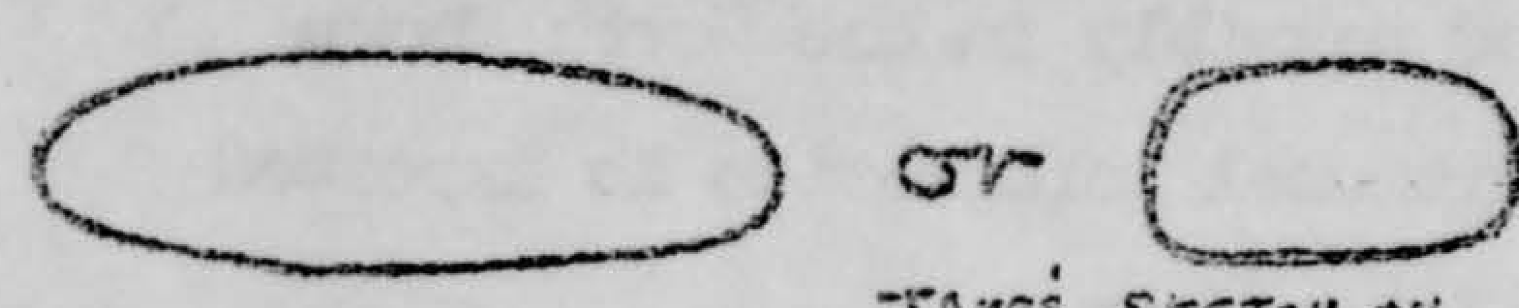
On the night of September 9, 1964, Radio station WBZ broadcast UFO reports at 10:00 and 11:00 PM. The following day I phoned Streeter Stuart, WBZ newscaster (NICAP member) to obtain the details. Streeter said that several employees of WBZ had seen the UFO over the WBZ parking lot and that WBZ had received about a dozen reports by phone. However, the State Police later called WBZ and told them that the UFO was identified by the Logan Airport Control Tower as being an advertising plane. Nevertheless, I obtained the witnesses' names from Streeter and began my investigation.

A check with Ski-Lite Advertising Company revealed that their aircraft had followed the route over which the UFO had been reported so I wrote off the reports as being the advertising plane.

On the same day, later in the afternoon, I received a phone call from a Sylvania official at Division Headquarters. He had seen my name in the "Sylvania News" as being connected with NICAP and UFOs and had called to inform me that many people had seen both the advertising plane and the UFO at the same time. His son and a friend, both MIT Engineering students, were among the witnesses. Thus, I reopened my investigation immediately. The results thus far are as follows.

SIGHTING ACCOUNTS

HARVARD SQUARE BRIDGE - 8:30 PM



(Data Sheet to NICAP) JAMES SKETCH ON DATA SHEET

WITNESS # 1
James Louis Warsher
(name may not be published)
6 Bradford Road,
Wellesley, Massachusetts
Age: 23
Occupation: Engineering Student - MIT

James and his friend were driving across the Harvard Square Bridge from MIT. (See Map # 1) They noticed an advertising plane carrying an illuminated sign which flashed the words "Bring back Volpe" - Volpe being a candidate for Governor. Almost at the same instant they noticed an elliptical-shaped object coming down the Charles River toward the bridge. It is important to note that both the advertising plane and this object were seen in the air at the same time thus eliminating the plane being mistaken for a UFO.

The object proceeded over the bridge causing both them and other motorists to stop in order to see the object. Just after the object passed over the bridge it executed a sharp turn having no curve radius. It headed straight for the large light on top of the John Hancock building and made 2 - 3 90° "square" turns around this light. It then came back over the river and suddenly ascended vertically at high speed.

James gave the following description of the object: It was solid and elliptical-shaped. Its edges were fuzzy. No noise could be heard. The bottom of the object was glowing with a pale gray diffused light which changed to a yellowish color

SIGHTING ACCOUNTS (Continued)

when the object sped up and accelerated vertically out-of-sight. This glowing light seemed to be shining through a translucent plastic. The object itself was a dull gray color. The light was compared to that of an automobile headlight appearing to be several blocks away. No flickering or pulsating of the light was noticed. It was observed through a windshield. The object's apparent size was compared to that of a silver dollar held at arm's length. Its true size was estimated to be the size of the average automobile. The object moved at a speed estimated between 100-150 mph before disappearing vertically at greater speed. Its height as compared with the John Hancock building's tower light would be over 26 stories high or about 275-300 feet.

WITNESS # 2

(James is endeavoring to persuade his friend to fill out a UFO DATA SHEET. I will send any further information obtained later.)

NEAR FENWAY PARK - 8:30+

WITNESSES # 3 & 4
Mr. & Mrs. David Randlett
28 Howe Street,
Wellesly, Massachusetts

Both witnesses saw a low-flying object heading toward Fenway Park (See Map # 1) which was described as an inverted saucer with a round circular white light which glowed like a house-lamp. No noise was heard. Its light was steady except for an occasional blink. It hovered momentarily at one point. It was last seen heading for the Charles River. It was insisted that what was seen was not an advertising plane. Further details are pending upon receipt of a filled-out UFO DATA SHEET.

TV-RADIO STATION WBZ - 8:50-8:54 PM

(Witnesses' names obtained through NICAP member Streeter Stuart, WBZ News Commentator)

WITNESS # 5
Robert Zagarella
(name may not be published)
104 Suffolk Street,
Malden, Massachusetts
Age: 32
Occupation: WBZ Special Police

Robert was in the WBZ parking lot when a bright light illuminated the lot. He looked up and was amazed to see a large circular light above him. He ran into the WBZ lobby and brought Mrs. Doris Sinclair, the TV station receptionist (Witness # 6) out to see it. A film technician came out to see it as well. Robert's sketch and description of the object are as follows: It made no noise, hovered, moved slowly, and suddenly sped off and disappeared when the lights blinked off completely. It had one bright white light which flashed on and off and moved from one point to another with great speed.

SIGHTING ACCOUNTS (Continued)

Its apparent size was that of a basketball held at arms length. Its real size was an estimated 25 feet long. No estimate was ventured regarding the object's distance from him.

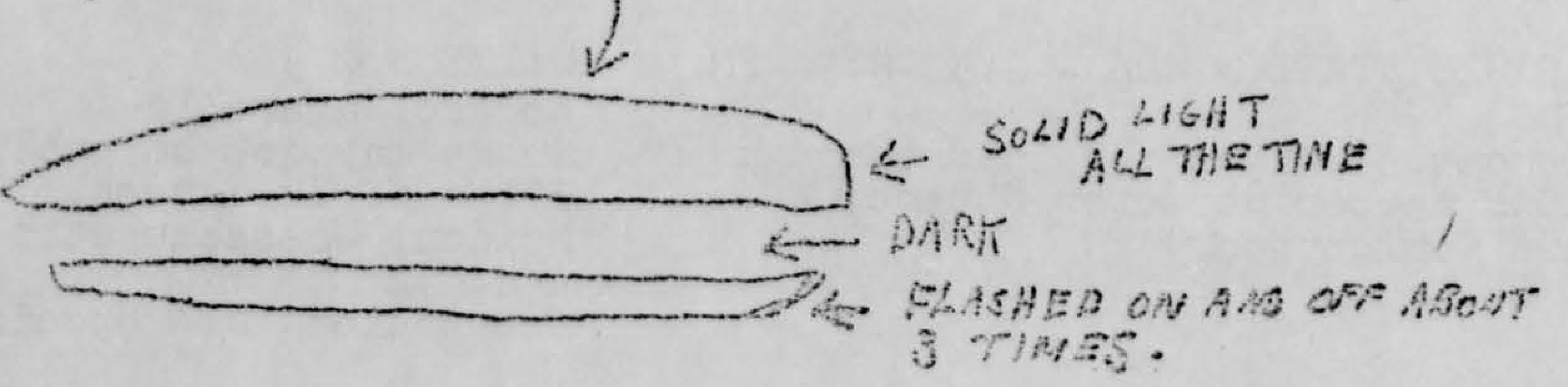
WINDOWS

X ← LIGHT FLASHING ON AND OFF

SKETCH FROM DATA SHEET

WITNESS # 6
Mrs. Doris Ann Sinclair
(name may not be published)
590 Lowell Street,
Lexington, Massachusetts
Age: 29
Occupation: Housewife
Receptionist-WBZ

Doris's description is similar to Robert's. The object was noiseless having a solid light on top and a light below which flashed on and off at various points, about 3 times. The object was an estimated 1500 feet away by the time she came out of the building to see it. No windows were observed. The object was sharply outlined and was the apparent size of a grapefruit held at arm's length. Doris stated that the object went out of view due to distance. Her sketch of the object is as follows:



AREA NORTH OF BOSTON - 9:15-9:45 PM

SEE NEWSLIP ATTACHED:
WAKEFIELD DAILY ITEM
September 10, 1964

WITNESS # 7
Mrs. Jean Walsh
41 Jefferson Road,
Wakefield, Mass.

WITNESS # 8
Susan Collins
33 Lake Street,
Wakefield, Mass

WITNESS # 9
Mr. John Zappala
"The Ship"
Rt. 1, Lynnfield, Mass.

WITNESS # 10
Mr. Richard Maloney
Coolidge Park,
Wakefield, Mass.

SIGHTING ACCOUNTS (Continued)

I talked to Richard Baker, reporter for the "Wakefield Item" who wrote up the UFO story. He stated that those who saw the UFO did not believe that it was the advertising plane.

LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS KERWIN CIRCLE	WITNESS # 11 Carol Crowell, 164 Kerwin Circle, Lynn, Massachusetts

Carol feels strongly that what she saw around 9:45 PM was not an advertising plane. She told me that it was flying much lower than an airplane; that it was a dull-metallic colored spherical object carrying a big round white light which alternately dimmed and brightened. The object moved in spurts, i.e. very slowly and then darting ahead. There was no noise associated with the object. Its size was about the size of an automobile.

EVALUATION

The State Police received word from Logan Airport that all of the "Flying Object" reports were caused by the "Sky-Lite" Advertising plane, a "Tri-Pacer" owned by East Coast Advertising Company, 54 Appleton Street, Boston, Massachusetts. After talking with the manager, Mr. Joseph Bodina several times, I was able to plot an approximate flight path of his aircraft on some maps. Its path coincided with most of the sightings. I have code-numbered each witness and have placed their numbers on the attached maps #1 & #2 for evaluation purposes.

This particular advertising plane has caused many false UFO reports in the past. However, until now, the descriptions have always been of an object with a string of lights, each flashing on and off intermittently. You will have noted that Richard Maloney (WITNESS # 10) described the UFO in this way at one point of his sighting BUT at another point he described it as being "white then yellowish" as did James Warsher, WITNESS # 1, i.e. it turned "yellowish" when it accelerated.

I would not venture to say definitely which people saw the true UFO and which saw the advertising airplane except in the case where both were seen at the same time. There is no doubt in my mind that there was a UFO in the area with the advertising plane. James Warsher, WITNESS # 1, told me that what he saw was flying low enough to see that the object was elliptical in shape and that no airplane could have performed the "square turns" that this object did.

My conclusion is that there was UFO activity in Boston and perhaps North of Boston. Because of the advertising plane in the area, the only report that can be definitely attributed to a UFO is that made by WITNESSES # 1 & # 2.

INVESTIGATOR
Raymond E. Fowler
Raymond E. Fowler